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THE LAYING OF THE CORNER STONE OF THE HASKELL ORIENTAL MUSEUM.

THE corner stone of the Haskell Oriental Museum was laid on July 1, 1895, in connection with the exercises of the eleventh convocation of The University of Chicago. After the convocation address and the conferring of degrees, the procession was formed and proceeded to the site of the Museum. The President of The University made a brief statement, after which he laid the corner stone. Prayer was offered by the Reverend P. S. Henson, D.D. The corner-stone address was delivered by the Reverend Professor John Henry Barrows, D.D. The benediction was pronounced by the Reverend H. C. Herring.

THE STATEMENT.

By PRESIDENT W. R. HARPER,
The University of Chicago.

THE thought that today we lay the corner stone of the building which shall stand possibly for five centuries carries with it very much that is significant and inspiring.

The thought that the building has been given by a generous Christian woman in order to make possible the broader and deeper study of the world's sacred Scriptures, and especially those of Christianity, is still more significant and more inspiring. But most significant and most inspiring of all is the deep Christian faith and the generous Christian heart which prompted this magnificent gift for the cause of science and truth. May the significance and the inspiration of the deed impress the heart of every man and woman within the reach of my voice, of every man and woman who in the centuries that are coming shall look

upon this beautiful structure. May God bless this woman richly, and may he so order that the building, erected through her generous gift, shall richly bless the world.

THE ADDRESS.

By JOHN HENRY BARROWS,
The University of Chicago.

MR. PRESIDENT AND FRIENDS: I deem this a golden day in the history, not only of The University of Chicago, but also of the University life of America. This, I believe, is one of the first buildings dedicated exclusively to Oriental studies, those studies from which so much spiritual and intellectual light has come to mankind, and from which so much illumination is still further expected. As the three chief languages of the ancient world were employed to write on the Cross of Christ the inscription of his royalty, so the same three languages are used to inscribe on the corner stone of this building sentences which will be both inspiration and guidance to the scholars who, through coming centuries, shall pass in and out of this beautiful edifice.

Lux ex Oriente, Light from the East. It comes to us with every daybreak, awakening joy and hope, as the solar king flames in the forehead of the morning sky. From the East have come the world's religions, all of them native to Asia; from the East has come the Bible of humanity; in the East have risen the mighty prophets whose words are the life of our civilization. And with faces fronting the dawn, we still anticipate new sunbursts of truth, that light which never was on sea or land, which dwells in the souls of sages and saints, of apostles and martyrs, and of all devout seekers after the divine. On this corner stone is also inscribed a sentence from the Hebrew psalms in that venerable language wherein was written the chief part of the world's great Bible, "The entrance of Thy words giveth light." All of God's utterances deserve this eulogy. It was

enlightenment which came to Prince Siddartha beneath the Bo-tree; it was enlightenment which came to Saul at Damascus, the divine word entering into his soul in dazzling illumination. It was enlightenment which came to Socrates in the streets of Athens, through the divine-haunting Genius whom he questioned. It was enlightenment which the Persian worshipers sought and found on the eastern hill-tops brilliant with the banners of the morning. Preëminently it was enlightenment which came with the divine word to the souls of those Hebrew prophets who are ever urging us to walk in the light of the Eternal.

But on the third side of this corner stone is inscribed in Greek, the language of the highest and broadest culture, that word from the Prologue of the fourth gospel which says of the Logos, the Christ, "He was the true, or original, light, which, coming into the world, enlighteneth every man." The Christian faith which identifies the spiritual illumination of our race with that gracious manifestation of God, which came through his Son in the Incarnation, now irradiates those hopeful and earnest studies into Comparative Religion from which theology rightly expects so much. We believe that

"The word unto the prophet spoken
Was writ on tables yet unbroken;
The word by seers or sibyls told
In groves of oak or fanes of gold,
Still floats upon the morning wind
Still whispers to the willing mind;
One accent of the Holy Ghost
The heedless world has never lost."

And we who cherish the Christ, as he is revealed in the Scriptures, gratefully and reverently identify him with the universal manifestations of God's truth and love.

But light is only one of the great words which the spiritual eye may behold inscribed upon this building. We see there also Learning, Piety, Love, Hope. Hellenic and Egyptian studies, Hebrew, Assyrian, Babylonian, and Hindu literatures and records are to find their home within these walls. It is believed that the cause of true religion is to be the gainer by the faithful and rev-

erent work done here. And then the Haskell Oriental Museum is a memorial building, bearing the name of one of the worthiest citizens of Chicago, erected by the devoted wife, whose contributions to this University have been so noteworthy and whose sympathy with the higher and broader Christian movements and studies of our times is so active and intense. This is one of a group of buildings, of a memorial character, which indicate how worthily the far-sighted and generous-minded citizens of Chicago may commemorate their beloved dead. This University is an institution belonging to all classes and denominations of our people, which appeals to the higher intellectual and moral interests of the city, and also addresses that fruitful civic pride and hopeful enthusiasm to which we must look for many of the grandest results of the future.

I am glad that men and women of all denominations are cherishing the University and adding to its beneficent work. We praise the great-minded men of other ages that built the chief architectural monuments of Europe. Within the hallowed glooms of the Chartres Cathedral, Lowell sang :

"I look round on the windows, pride of France,
Each the bright gift of some mechanic guild,
Who loved their city and thought gold well spent
To make her beautiful with piety."

But both religion and learning and civic pride and the natural desire for a splendid earthly immortality are all appealing to the large-hearted and open-handed to continue this work of University building that shall make our city beautiful and illustrious to the ends of the earth and the limits of time. Some of you know that the architectural plans already determined provide for a collection of structures which, when completed, will make by far the most magnificent university pile on the continent. They will be harmonized under one general scheme, and they are of such quality and character, thanks to the wisdom and genius of the architect and to the lofty ideals of the President and Trustees of The University, as to be worthy monuments to the generous, famous, and honored makers of this great town. Very largely

they are to bear the names of those who have been associated with the growth of this imperial city. The beautiful structures which we see about us, bearing the names of Ryerson, Foster, Kelly, Beecher, Walker, Cobb, Kent, Snell, and Haskell, indicate the memorial character which The University's architecture has assumed. And still greater work is urgently demanded. The English universities have their towers and chapels and majestic libraries and sculptured gateways, and splendid windows, and sonorous bells sounding over the Merton meadows or along the stone and oaken bridges of the Cam. The famous King's Chapel of Cambridge on which the royal saint of England lavished his gold, that "immense and glorious work of fine intelligence,"

"‘Those lofty pillars,’ ‘that branching roof’
Self-poised and scooped into ten thousand cells,
Where light and shade repose, where music dwells
Lingering, and wandering on as loth to die;
Like thoughts whose very sweetness yielded proof
That they were born for immortality,"—

this glory of King's College, as Wordsworth felt and sang it,—why should it not be reproduced here in the heart of our western world and become, with the University Library building, the central and crowning glory of these gray quadrangles? Why will not some of our merchant princes, quite as worthy of honor as any chapel or cathedral builders of the Middle Age, seize this opportunity of a glorious immortality? I earnestly believe that our beloved University represents all that is highest in our city's life, and that it will do more than anything else to free us from reproach and to give our name, already honored as representing material masteries, a purer and more lasting lustre.

A century hence the Haskell Oriental Museum, now rising, will be surrounded by groups of academic buildings that shall repeat many of the glories so dear to Oxford. Two hundred years hence this University may be the crown of the world's metropolis, a seat of learning like that by the Isis, learning hal-
lowed by time and by sacred memories,

“The Past’s incalculable hoard,
Mellowed by scutcheoned panes in cloisters old
Seclusions ivy-hushed, and pavements sweet
With immemorial lisp of musing feet.”

We are pioneers of an immeasurable future, and the corner stone that is laid today is a milestone in human progress. All honor then to those who have so wisely planned and skilfully guided the development of this University ! All blessings on the generous benefactress whose gracious hand lifts this splendid structure toward the sky ! All hail to the glorious and imperial future, rich with the increasing spoils of learning and the multiplied triumphs of faith, of which the Oriental Museum is a sure and golden prophecy.